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3-6-03  
Docket: 6956

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:	Barry M. Thompson	
Appln. No.:	09/710,288	
Filing Date:	November 10, 2000	Examiner: L. T. Truong
Title:	SMOKE EVACUATION SYSTEM	Group Art Unit: 3761

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this document is being sent via First Class U. S. mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 3 day of February, 2003.

*KrisAnne Popovits*  
KrisAnne Popovits

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 22, 23 and 41.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) An evacuation apparatus for removing gaseous byproducts or noxious vapors comprising:

B1 a head operatively coupled to a vacuum and a fluid source, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery defining a generally central opening, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery; and

a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein,

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